

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, AFSP, HU

SUBJECT: TEACHERS: VISAS AND PERSONNEL CEILING

REF: STATE 150529

1. EMBASSY PREPARED TO APPROACH HUNGARIAN MFA WITH REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE COURTESY VISAS IN TOURIST PASSPORTS OF TEACHERS. PRESUME THIS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE APPROVED.

HOWEVER, WHILE THIS PROCEDURE WOULD RESOLVE MOST IMMEDIATE QUESTION, I.E., TEACHERS' ENTRY INTO HUNGARY, WHOLE SERIES OF QUESTIONS IMMEDIATELY ARISES RE THEIR CONTINUING AND PERMANENT STATUS IN HUNGARY. WE HAVE IN MIND SUCH QUESTIONS AS FOLLOWING:

WHAT TYPE OF HUNGARIAN IDENTITY DOCUMENTS WILL THEY HAVE?
CAN THEY ACQUIRE PERMANENT VISAS?
HOW WILL GOH VIEW THEIR OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP TO EMBASSY?
WILL THEY BE ABLE TO TRAVEL FREELY OR MUST THEY REPORT TO HUNGARIAN POLICE AND OBTAIN PERMISSION TO DEPART FROM AND RETURN TO HUNGARY?
DO THEYNGAY HUNGARIAN TAXES?
SOCIAL SECURITY?
WILL GOH VIEW THEIR BEING PAID IN DOLLARS AS VIOLATION OF HUNGARIAN CURRENCY REGULATIONS?

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2. WE DO NOT EXPECT HUNGARIANS TO BE PARTICULARLY IMAGINAORVE

OR FLEXIBLE IN RESOLVING THESE QUESTIONS. IT IS QUITE
LIKELY THAT WE SHALL BE CONFRONTED WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AND
BUREAUCRATIC NIGHTMARE IN VIEW FACT THAT MFA DOES NOT HAVE
FULL AUTHORITY AND WILL HAVE TO COORDINATE PROBLEM OF
TEACHERS' STATUS WITH OTHER GOH MINISTRIES INCLUDING INTERIOR.
ADDITIONAL QUESTION (AND IN OUR VIEW MOST IMPORTANT) ARISES
RE OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE AND VIGOROUS PROTECTIVE
SERVICES TO TEACHERS IN EVENT OF LEGAL OR OTHER DIFFICULTIES
UNDER AMBIGUOUS STATUS PROPOSED REFTEL. DETENTE MOOD
IS PREVALENT NOW BUT AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, WP COUNTRIES
CAN AND DO SHIFT GEARS RAPIDLY. THUS, WE ARE UNABLE TO
PREDICT WITH ASSURANCE WHAT CLIMATE WILL PREVAIL HERE FEW
MONTHS FROM NOW.

3. FOR THESE REASONS WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE
ANOTHER HARD LOOK AT POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING TEACHERS
WITH OFFICIAL PASSPORTS. AS WE READ APPLICABLE REGULATIONS
(8 FAM 241.1.B, PROC) TEACHERS MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR
OFFICIAL PASSPORTS AS "MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLD" OF PERMANENT
EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER. EXTREMELY TIGHT HOUSING SITUATION
HAS FORCED US TO HOUSE TEACHERS IN UNUSED PORTIONS POLITICAL
OFFICER'S LARGE RESIDENCE. THUS, IF TEACHERS COULD BE
CONSIDERED MEMBERS SMITH'S HOUSEHOLD FOR PASSPORT ISSUANCE
PURPOSES, WE COULD ELIMINATE POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS
CITED ABOVE.

4. FOR BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES TEACHERS
COULD STILL BE CONSIDERED EMPLOYEES OF US DEPENDENT SCHOOL,
NOT OF USG.

5. WE URGE DEPARTMENT TO DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO FIND WAY
TO PROVIDE TEACHERS WITH OFFICIAL PASSPORTS. WE THINK
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE NO AMBIGUITY RE TEACHERS'
STATUS. WITH ISSUANCE OF OFFICIAL PASSPORTS ALL DOUBT
RE THEIR STATUS WOULD BE REMOVED. HUNGARIANS UNDERSTAND
THAT TWO GIRLS WILL BE TEACHING DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF
EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS AND WILL NOT ACTUALLY BE WORKING
IN EMBASSY. THEY HAVE INDICATED TO US (BUDAPEST -537)
THAT IN THEIR VIEW HAVING TEACHERS CONSIDERED PART OF
EMBASSY STAFF FOR PASSPORT PURPOSES IS SOLUTION LEAST
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FRAUGHT WITH DIFFICULTIES FOR THEIR SIDE. THEY HAVE
ALSO INDICATED THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM RE LIFTING PER-
SONNEL CEILING. TO NOW ASK THAT TEACHERS BE ISSUED
COURTESY VISAS IN TOURIST PASSPORTS WOULD BRING INTO PLAY
WHOLE HOST OF BUREAUCRATIC COMPLICATIONS STEMMING FROM
NECESSITY TO CLARIFY THEIR OFFICIAL STATUS IN HUNGARY.
HUNGARIAN BUREAUCRACY AT BEST IS SLOW (EVEN SLOWER IN
AUGUST). OUR HUNCH IS THAT IF WE APPROACH MFA TO ASK FOR

COURTESY VISAS IN TOURIST PASSPORTS, IT MAY TAKE WEEKS,
PERHAPS EVEN MONTHS, BEFORE WE GET A DEFINITIVE REPLY.
PLEASE ADVISE.
MUDD

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